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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1921.

IV. Washington's Schools.

IF ANYONE should happen to ask at the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company offices, they would quite certainly find a map of the District of Columbia on which was marked population density, the population growth in the past, and careful estimates as to population gains and losses in each section for the next two decades. Telephone companies have such surveys so they may know the size of cables it is economy to lay or string in anticipation of future business expansion and to determine the location of new exchange centers.

We have known telephone companies to give a school board the advantage of such a survey for the location of new school buildings. But it indicates what is needed as a basis for a complete school program for Washington. It could be mapped now and estimates made which would permit the purchase of school sites in anticipation of twenty years' growth. The children of at least such new districts might then have ample playgrounds, and if it is economy for telephone and electric companies to have such surveys, it surely would be economy for a school district.

There is an exceptionally complete, carefully made survey in existence of the physical condition of the present buildings. This was made in 1920 by the Parent-Teachers' associations. It has all the data and detail needed as to alterations, additions, improvements and betterments needed on which to fix all expenditures for the present school plant. It is available to the District committee. What is needed in addition is a survey of all entirely new buildings on new sites to determine future growth of the plant and prepare for it.

This information should be before the committee not in cryptic form, not as a Chinese puzzle, but listed by school divisions and buildings, with nothing omitted and a preliminary estimate of costs. The mere items of repairs, alterations and improvements would run to large figures, as Washington won the national health prize in a school plant which is a sanitary abomination. If the money used in this health campaign had been paid to a sanitary engineer, it would have had a genuine result in good health through permanent improvements in health conditions. A sanitary engineer is one official agency the schools sadly need rather than an increase of agents to watch results which are directly caused by disgraceful conditions.

This complete marshalling of facts as to buildings present and for the future is an essential preliminary of construction economy. The second essential is plant standardization. The building program of this year required the employment of a number of architects outside the District office. Had the building standard system been adopted, had this city not been so far behind in modern school construction, not a single one of these private architects would have been needed.

It is just common sense that an eight, or a sixteen or any other size of school building used for the usual grades, must be practically identical with every other one of the same size, designed for the same use, if all are rightly planned. Did you ever happen to think in this connection, that children going from good schools in any part of any State to good schools in any part of any other State do not change their grades? They find themselves in the same educational plane, the same sized rooms, with seats for the same number of pupils, with the same facilities and equipment, that they left.

This means that school buildings all over this country have been standardized and are being increasingly standardized. As an example a 16-room building wherever it may be, has sixteen class rooms located exactly the same with identical lighting. It has just so many cloak rooms, of certain sizes, located in exact relation to class rooms. It has so many lavatories, toilets, drinking fountains and other etceteras placed where experience has shown they should be. The heating plant has its place, ditto coal and ash bins. There are a fixed number of offices, storerooms, playrooms, a library, and every one, as is all else, determined in location, size and all details by the rule of convenience, saving of time, greatest use and least waste motion. There is similarly a standard auditorium, and as well build a 16-room building with outside closets, as without an auditorium. It is an essential and without the platoon system, can be made an agency of material expansion. The gymnasium is similarly a standard type, as are the playgrounds.

This sounds reasonable to you? It is more than reasonable. It is basic. There is just one type of interior arrangement of any schoolhouse of any designated size in number of rooms for grades, for junior high or for platoon system. There is just one interior arrangement that is right. The rest are wrong. When a half-dozen architects are employed to plan a half-dozen 16-room grade schoolhouses, those that do not conform to the one approved type will all be wrong. An architect may have national fame and not know how to plan a schoolhouse, which is the one public building brought to such a state of economical perfection that there is not an inch of space wasted. Entrances, exits, hallways, stairs—everything is mathematically exact for its use and under all conditions.

Plainly then what Washington needs for economy in its building program and celerity in carrying it out, is preliminary organization. First,

a complete survey brought into the form of a list of needs. Second, standard plans for each class of new school buildings, with identical interiors for each class and changes of exterior only to fit location. Such buildings could be built wholesale, as all fittings would be duplicates, and even all dimensions would conform to certain fixed sizes. Only funds would be needed to condense such a program to any desired time limit and six months used in preliminary organization would be years saved in construction, a considerable percentage saved in cost, and buildings secured which would not become obsolete or rapidly pass to the discard, as the future of public school growth in methods and educational system, and so in building requirements, is now practically fixed for a generation.

Morocco has qualified as a modern war nation by sending typhoid germs into Spain. Spain should retaliate by sending them back.

Figures and Fomentations.

SEVENTY-five years ago, with youthful irascibility, the United States sent forth the insistent slogan "Fifty-four Forty or Fight." It was in the halls of Congress that the phrase originated and although it was probably little more than a fortuitous alliterativeness that caused the inclusion of the final word the public caught the war fever and it was only after delicate negotiations with Great Britain that the northwest boundary of our land was set at 49 degrees, some 387 miles south of the latitude clamored for.

Today we are confronted by two sets of figures that prove ratios of lengthy contention, namely "5-5-3" and "10-10-7." They represent the naval strengths of the United States, Great Britain and Japan as called for in the suggestions of Mr. Hughes and the Japanese estimates submitted in rebuttal.

To Americans, the insistence of the Japanese delegates, instructed over the hot Pacific cables, on the ten and seven balance seems one calculated to deadlock the arms limitation parley, an evidence of an underlying anxiety for the maintenance by the Mikado of a strong naval force. Our citizenry might be pardoned for loud support of the Hughes proposal, back of which, all accounts from the parley session assure, the American representatives stand adamant.

But nothing of the sort has occurred. As the days pass, everyone remains tranquil in and out of print, trusting implicitly in the Secretary of State and his colleagues at the conference board to adhere to the original terms. It is a tribute to the staunch Americanism of our delegates and another instance of the unprompted sense of national courtesy to foreigners sojourning here.

While the Japanese put forward counter-suggestions and reams of expert figuring to support their claims for a more generous allowance in the apportionment game, the charmed chains of numerals "5-5-3" and "10-10-7" fix the eyes of scores of millions of Americans several times a day. But there are no belligerent suffixes invented and the international subcommittee of naval experts continue saucily excothitating amid a stream of polite public comment which would certainly seem lady-like to the blusterers of 1846.

The stork has made a new speed record, by overtaking an express train with a nine-pounder.

Judged by Stern Standards.

WOMEN'S introduction into the world of men as the result of her enfranchisement has been attended by some acts which come under the category of plain mean. Many incensed males have given up little courtesies of the highway and business office which formerly accentuated the differentiation between the sexes socially. The women have responded nobly by going into politics hammer and tongs, gaining distinction and offices, making "twelve good men and true" a more or less empty phrase and in general exhibiting an ability to place themselves on an equal or higher footing most disturbing to the exponents of the jejune "place in the home" theory.

Significant evidence that the fair and potent sex is being admitted doorway by doorway to the inner sanctums of male principle and action comes in a back-handed way in the recent dispatches. Mile. Suzanne Lenglen, deposed court star, has been termed "unsportsmanlike" by the secretary of the French Tennis Association, who recently resigned as the result of disputes over her conduct during her disastrous matches on American soil.

The gist of his statement is contained in his expressed reluctance to voice an opinion tending to asperse the honor of a woman. There you have it. In the world of sports, where the strictest of codes prevails, woman is being received on a par with man. She can be termed a "quitter" or a "game un," she can show a "yellow streak" or red-blooded courage in contests. And it is as serious a charge which places her in the category of the "quitter" as would be a similar imputation against a football player, a runner, a pugilist.

But a few decades since, a young woman was really too unconventional if she did not indulge in fainting fits when the bad news came or on slighter pretext. Now, if she faints, the drastic resuscitative methods which embrace the water pail and if necessary the pulmotor seem to be indicated. A few years since, if she grew angry in a game and withdrew it was nothing more, perhaps, than a gesture of charming pettishness. Now, she is a "quitter," and across her record not only in the particular sport but in the world at large must be blazoned a bar sinister by the heraldic college of athletics.

This seems all as it should be. But it is to be hoped that the day never will come when the ladies respond to offenses with doubled fist and speed-propelled arm. The uncivil street car conductor would be in peril of his life, the sneering ward boss would sustain such jolts as might call for the ambulance.

Commissioner Oyster has received over 4,000 personal calls since March. Looks like the Commissioner is getting the overflow of Ohio office seekers.

One seldom hears of an escape from jail, probably because prisoners realize that it is better to stay in jail than attempt to find a job.

Happy is the special writer at the arms conference whose memory is so poor that he doesn't remember what he wrote last week.

Those afflicted with the wanderlust who elect to ride the bumpers of a mail car should first read the account of the battle of Belleau Wood.

New York City Day by Day Impressions: by O. C. McIntyre

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Thoughts while strolling around New York: A venerable crane with a spay single followed by hoodlums. Rex Beach in a leather hunting coat. Unwieldy green buses filled with tourists. Aristocratic white wolf hounds with sad eyes. A hurdy-gurdy playing in front of the Vanderbilt mansion.

Windows with platinum ornaments—white as a hoar frost. Duncolor housewives stopping to gaze on their way to 10-cent stores. Debutantes flocking to a morning musicale; immutable youth with imperishable dreams.

Frock coats and camouls gloves. Walking sticks carried with aristocratic carelessness. Mrs. Leslie Carter in a sky-blue limousine. Sutton Square—the new social center in a neighborhood of ash carts and prison walls. Plutocrats and stable boys.

A tug filled with shackled, dejected men. Timid, foreign-born children playing on dump heaps. Street photographers trying to lure women from tenement kitchens. A sickly odor of kail and stale cooking. Third floor back furnished rooms.

Cross-town cars with shawled women loaded with bundles. A chorus of whistle blasts from exhausted loft workers. Clerks stepping briskly to saunter, whistling their eternal serenades. There's a new one: "Eyebrow Parlor."

Five chop suey joints in a single block. And a drug store on the corner wisely heralds a new dyspepsia cure. A Russian woman, with all the sorrows of her race in enduring eyes, patiently rolls cigarettes in a window and stares dumbly at passersby.

A theatrical agent and producer were wrangling over a salary the latter was to pay an actor. The producer wanted to pay \$150 and the agent asked \$200 a week. Finally the producer gave in.

"That's right," he said, "Be like Hamlet—always trying to get your pound of flesh."

This is the day of the dog in the Broadway drama. The names of three plays now showing are "Beware of Dogs," "The Mad Dog" and "Bulldog Drummond."

Luchow's, a famous restaurant on Fourteenth street, is moving to Forty-second street. Luchow has purchased the German Lutheran Church next door to the Selwyn Theater, a strange church structure the midst of eleven theaters on one block. Luchow has announced that when the new place is opened, he will serve real beer. His idea is not to sell the ambrosia, but to serve it free to patrons. He doesn't explain how he expects to get away with the innovation from a legal standpoint. Luchow's was a meeting place for years for German families who went there to hear band concerts and to sip steins of beer.

At New York first nights in a certain box office a velvet woman, a reigning stage beauty of the late '90s. A year ago she submitted to an operation to improve her beauty. A skin infection set in leaving her scarred and disfigured.

A playwright stepped into the box office on the afternoon preceding the opening night of his play. He looked over the ticket rack. Only those sent to critics were gone. "Looks like a benefit for Ed Wynn," he declared.

"Sally" now hears its 500th performance with never a vacant seat. Many say it will survive for four years. Tickets are now selling for next to nothing. Over in London the rehearsal of the play and have seen it many times since and it still retains its charm and beauty. Dainty, nimble-footed Marilyn Miller, the fellow for you, a vaudeville dancer with a set property smile, has become the toast of the town. Her career is as much like a Cinderella story as the plot of her starring vehicle. Over in London Dorothy Dickson, a cabaret dancer along Broadway, has also been catapulted into fame in the English production of "Sally."

Until this year musical and other plays were built around the charms or derelictions of women. But this season mere man has his fling. Walking along Forty-second street I saw a man in a tuxedo, a "What Do Men Want?" "Nature's Noblemen." "The Man's Name." "The Grand Duke." "The Wandering Jew." "Daddy Goes A-Hunting." "The Shik." "A Prince There Was" and "Peter Ibbotson."

WHO'S WHO AT THE CONFERENCE

Samuel Gompers, adviser to the American delegation at the arms conference, began organizing labor when he was a boy of 15 and has been at the job constantly since that time. "Since he will be 72 Jan. 1, he is the oldest union worker, in point of years of service, in the entire country."

The last session of the American Federation of Labor, and was a pioneer in bringing workers into co-operation with unions. He was one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor, and was its president from 1882 to this time, with the exception of a single year. He is also first vice president of the National Civic Federation, and served as a member of the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense.

He was married for the second time last spring, taking as a help-mate a widow some twenty-five years his junior. Mr. Gompers calls New York home, but he passes most of his time, when not traveling, at Washington.

He is charged with being conservative. Gompers was born in England, of Jewish parentage. He began life as a cigar maker, and was a pioneer in bringing workers into co-operation with unions. He was one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor, and was its president from 1882 to this time, with the exception of a single year. He is also first vice president of the National Civic Federation, and served as a member of the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense.

STRIP POKER—By J. N. DARLING.



Open Court Letters to The Herald

A Deathless Alliance?

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
The purpose of the Anglo-Japanese alliance is to maintain peace and order in the Far East. It has been serving its purpose as a sentinel of peace. To abandon the alliance means to destroy it. The Japanese are not war-like. Why should they kill the sentinel of peace?

The Anglo-Japanese alliance actually exists and shall continue to be so forever. It does not terminate in June, 1922, as it is clearly stated in a clause of the treaty.

In England, the public opinion supports its continuance. Mr. Lloyd George, together with the House of Commons, approves it. The delegate from New Zealand also is an advocate for it. The existence of the alliance cannot be terminated merely by the opinion of an editor of the London Times. The sentinel of peace will not be pierced through with the pen point, however sharp and fierce it might be.

Beware, oh America! The Anglo-Japanese alliance stands for peace. This sentiment is in fact the sentiment of Asia, never toward America.

This faithful sentinel cannot and will not point his dagger behind him.

R. SASHIDA,
Editor of the Japanese American, San Francisco, Cal.

"Naval Suicide."

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
The American navy, which would very soon have become the most powerful in the world, was built for the protection of our coasts, and not for conquest. The British navy is now first upon the seas; but England is in financial difficulties of so serious a nature that she must, in any case, almost entirely cease to build capital ships, from sheer lack of money. For this reason, the command of the seas would have fallen to the United States, in a very few years, automatically and without an effort. We should thus have become absolutely safe from foreign attack.

Under these circumstances, to propose to reduce our navy, to actually destroy a number of powerful warships built for our own defense, is suicidal.

SECURITAS.

Jap View of Naval Ratio.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
The ratio 5-5-3 of the naval ratio, in fact, is not confused with the ratio of future strength. Children cannot be counted as soldiers of today.

The existing strength of navies between England and the United States, no matter what the ratio, is not a matter of measurement one may use, they are not equal. The fact cannot be ignored.

Whether England and the United States are in harmony or not on this ratio, we have nothing to do. Yet the United States and England should not endeavor to influence or to force Japan because of their own agreement.

Communications will not be returned unless specific request for such return is made and stamps enclosed. Letters should be typewritten whenever possible. Communications extremely difficult to read will not be considered. No communications signed with fictitious names will be used.

America should be just, peaceful and honest. Do not forget justice. Do not make Japan excited, but make her understand!

A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT.

To Hughes' Defense.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
I cannot permit to go unanswered the letter of November 26, signed "Veritas," appearing in these columns, wherein she deprecates the well-earned praise which all true Americans, without regard to party affiliation, bestowed upon our Secretary of State, Mr. Hughes, after his masterful and lucid presentation of the position of our government at the first meeting of the moment conference. Her reasoning is as novel and startling as the action of Mr. Hughes.

She says "It was a case of 'open covenants openly arrived at' with a vengeance; but who, pray, coined the phrase?" Mr. Hughes had his proposal all proposed. Why should he not? That Mr. Wilson had "no carefully prepared proposal, and look at the result!" That after the experience of Mr. Wilson it surely was "easy enough for Hughes to know better." That even though Mr. Hughes' proposal was unequivocal and made with no attempt at evasion, she asks "Is that anything to his credit?"

Of course, as Veritas says, "Everybody knows that it is just as important to know how not to do something as to know how to do it." But the difficulty is to know just when we should or should not do a thing. Mr. Wilson merely followed the history of which he had the most intimate knowledge. But now that Mr. Hughes has "practically" what Mr. Wilson reached before the Versailles conference, and has not only known how to do that which Veritas impliedly admits is the right thing, but when to do it, and what is still more important, has done it, Veritas asks "Is that with the remark that he had the 'record of the last administration before him' and asks, 'Why should he not do everything right?'"

I would ask Veritas, Did not Mr. Wilson have before him the record of the many similar conferences antedating the Versailles Conference, with which he was undoubtedly conversant as Mr. Hughes is with the record of the last administration? But merely because Mr. Hughes has the additional "record" of the last administration, she intimates, when she concludes her letter with, "I believe in giving credit when credit is due," that all true lovers of America, Republicans and Democrats alike, as well as the press of foreign nations, (as she expresses it) are "stopping over in fulsome praise of Mr. Hughes" have lacked perception and, although the praise is warranted, it has been misdirected.

R. R. F.

On Life After Death.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
Whether there is, or is not, a future life before us, is a question in which we are all naturally interested. In discussing this question the Bible is often referred to as final authority, whereas the Bible may be quoted to sustain either side of the question. Therefore we must look outside of that book for a final answer. There is a philosophy which regards man as a lamp which, when his oil is burned out, dies—and in the same day his thoughts perish," to quote from the Holy Writ. According to this philosophy life is a tragedy and I, for one, would not stake any hopes upon such an impossible thing as

a physical resurrection. "Simple faith," too, is unsatisfactory.

So true to science for the last word on the subject. Sir A. Conan Doyle, an English scientist, says: "I have made personal appeals to at least one great leader of science to examine the facts, however superficial, without any success, while Sir William Crookes appealed to Sir George Stokes, the secretary of the Royal Society, one of the most bitter opponents of the movement, to come down to his laboratory and see the psychic force at work, but he took no notice. What weight has science of that sort? It can only be compared to that theological prejudice which caused the ecclesiastics in the days of Galileo to refuse to look through the telescope which he held out to them. It is possible to write down the names of fifty professors in great seats of learning who have examined and endorsed these facts, and the list would include many of the greatest intellects which the world has produced in our time—Flammario, Lambroso, Richet and Russell Wallace, Willie Reichel, Myers, James, Lodge and Crookes. Therefore, the facts have been endorsed by the only science that has the right to express an opinion. I have never, in my thirty years of experience, known one single scientific man who did not accept of the Spiritual Solution." (See "The Vital Message," pages 53-54.)

W. S. CLINGAN.

Public Schools and Religion.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
Rather frequently, late, I see it suggested that religion should be taught in the public schools. This is, to my mind, a matter of such vital interest to us that I request a hearing in the Open Court. If the propagandists mean by religion when they say "religion," they should specify for religion and morality are not identical. They differ as widely as church and state. One may be religious, in conduct and not religious, in morality, and ethics comprises the duties of man to his fellow-man; whereas the Christian religion pertains to man's duty to his God.

Religion may be properly taught almost anywhere except in the public school, which was created by the state and exclusively for the state. The public school is designed to produce intellectual and moral citizens for the state, by whose revenues it is sustained; and not to take over the spiritual work of making saints for the church. In view of the multitude of antagonistic creeds, doctrines, and dogmas, even in the Christian religion, it is manifestly absurd to think or successfully teaching any kind of religion in our beneficent public schools. Who could do it? Must the public school teacher's desk be daily converted into a pulpit? Is it not wiser for the devotee of each calling to honor his own peculiar faith, and to attempt to teach the motto: More useful teaching for the State and more gospel preaching for the church. It should not be forgotten that the public school is the guardian fortress of our civil liberties, and must not be entangled with the present religious confusion in the world.

JOHN R. WEATHERS.

Scientific Notes and Comment

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1921.

Bureau of Standards staff meeting. Bureau of Standards, this afternoon, 3:30 o'clock. The work of the bureau division and its line of development, in the near future, and "The status of bureau publications and summary report of editorial committee," by Dr. C. W. Walder.

"Automobile Work at the Bureau of Standards" will be the general topic of the meeting of the Washington section of the Society of Automotive Engineers, Cosmos Club, tonight, 8 o'clock. Introductory remarks by Dr. S. W. Stratton, director, aerodynamics and aeronautics instruments, by Dr. L. J. Briggs; "Automotive Starting and Lighting Batteries," by Dr. G. W. Vinal; "Automobile Tires," by F. L. Worreley; "Aviation Engine Testing," by S. W. Sparrow; "Brake Linings and Truck Rear Axles," by S. Von Ammon; "Ignition," by Dr. F. B. Silsbee; "Engine Cooling," by Dr. E. D. Harper; "Lubrication, Carburetor and Automobile Performance," by W. S. James.

TEACH GROWING WOOD LIKE OTHER CROPS

Now we have experiment stations to teach us to grow our forests. For years the agricultural experiment stations have instructed the American farmer on nitrate and potash and selection of seed and animal husbandry and a thousand other things. In two generations this instruction has lifted American agriculture from a primitive art to a modern science. In North Carolina and Louisiana the first two forest experiment stations of the Department of Agriculture have just been established.

The average man does not realize that forests can be grown like other crops, and he does not know how critical the agricultural training to grow these crops has become. Five-sixths of the original forests of the United States have been destroyed—most of them ruthlessly and wastefully. The pinch of the timber shortage is already felt in the high price of lumber and the lack of housing. Timber that was once abundant and near at hand is gone from the East and Middle West, and lumber must now be shipped in from great distances at large expense.

Of our vast original forest domain of more than 1,250,000 square miles, over one-tenth has been so absolutely sterilized by deforestation and fire that it produces nothing. To this scrap-land is now added 12,000 to 15,000 square miles every year. In addition to this land, there are some 250,000 square miles of forest land now being produced in second growth, only a fraction of what it might yield under intensive forest management.

Growing forest crops is the only answer to the menace of a timber famine. Forest crops require from 50 to 200 years or more to grow. A mistake in methods may take decades to correct. Although wood is not so absolutely indispensable as food, and although organized socialist might protest without it, lack of it would make an immensely impoverished and weakened society. A nation without forests or access to forests is unthinkable.

Forests in civilized communities are rightly relegated to the poorest soil. They are not profitable, but cultivated, artificially fertilized, or irrigated. Hence the art of growing them is all the more difficult, and it is necessary to study and to take advantage of every favorable factor in soil, climate, and the natural variations in the different species of trees. This is a piece of work requiring endless patient research.

How best to harvest mature timber, how to establish a young growth by natural seeding and then eliminate the laborious and costly work of planting is another problem of major importance. The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture has a program that calls ultimately for at least ten forest experiment stations—five in the eastern forest region, three in the Rocky Mountain region, and two in the Pacific. In short, one station for each great group of forestry problems.

WORK SPECIFICATIONS FOR PORTLAND CEMENT.

The specifications that the various countries of the world use in buying portland cement have been summarized in a chart that has just been issued by the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce.

Cement is an international building material and thirty-two countries of the world have specifications for portland cement, twenty of which differ in important details from the American standard. Others use the specifications of other countries in assuring the quality of the cement used in construction within the country, and many others accept the American standard. It passes the tests of the country in which it is made.

Though the specifications differ in details and values, they include the same kind of tests for most cases. These are tests for chemical composition, specific gravity, fineness of grinding, setting time, soundness and tensile and compressive strength. In this country, there is one universal specification for portland cement, which has been adopted by the commercial interests, testing engineers as well as the government.

TAKE AIR PHOTOS OF OLD INDIAN MOUNDS.

For the first time an American archaeologist has used aerial photography to obtain bird's-eye views of the oldest human-made topographical features of America, the Indian mounds. David I. Bushnell, Jr., is using such photographs of the mounds near East St. Louis to make a report on the history of the mounds. The Smithsonian Institution here.

TESTS FIND NO NEW ATMOSPHERIC GAS.

Researches made by C. Borel and A. Jaquez, and reported to the Swiss Physical Society have failed to bring to light any unknown atmospheric gas. These two scientists for two months daily diffused through four quartz samples of air in the hope of finding a new element, but their efforts were fruitless.

W. D.